P.G.-62-15
Johnson-Crump House
Beltsville Vicinity
Private

This substantial, three bay, two story log house reflects the improvements in log house construction made possible by land ownership and skilled labor. The principal block was built soon after 1887 by Notley Johnson, a black landowner. In 1907 another black family -- Major Anderson and his wife Sadie -- purchased the farm, and over the years have remodelled it of its present condition. Since its inception, all of the work on the house has been done by the resident families, the most energetic force being Mrs. Sadie Anderson Crump, who continues to live here with her second husband and who celebrated her centennial birthday in February, 1977. The changes to this house are in keeping with the evolution in housing among the black, landowning, middle class in rural Maryland in the decades of the turn of the century.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

| Survey #: <u>P.G. #62-15</u> | Building Date: 1887 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Building Name: <u>Johnson-Crump H</u> | ouse |
| Location: 7606 Old Muirkirk Roa | d, Beltsville (Rossville), Md. |

Private/Vacant/Unimproved/Unexposed

Description

The Johnson-Crump House, built in 1887 by Notley Johnson, was a two-story side-gabled log house. The hewn sill beams of the house rested on natural stone pilings, and there was a central brick chimney at the ridge. Early in the twentieth century, the original log structure was covered with horizontal board siding, and in the 1920's, a one-story kitchen wing was added, giving the building its L shape. A one-acre lot was sold out of Lot #11 in 1952, and on that lot stands the small side-gabled cottage which is the home of the present generation of the Crump family. The older Johnson-Crump house was demolished in 1981.

Significance

The Johnson-Crump House was one of the first dwellings built in the 1886 subdivision of Rossville. It was constructed of log by Notley Johnson, on three-acre Lot #ll which he purchased in 1887; with its two-room plan and central chimney, it was representative of the modest dwellings built according to traditional methods by black farmers and laborers on newly acquired land. In 1913, Sadie Ross Anderson, daughter of Augustus Ross (who had built his house on Lot #l of Rossville), purchased Lot #ll, which Johnson had lost through default in mortgage. After this time, the windows of the log house were enlarged, and the log structure was covered with wood siding. After the death of Mrs. Anderson's husband, she married Israel Crump, and they raised their family in the old house. In 1952, Sadie and Israel Crump sold the westerly one acre of Lot #ll to their son, Oscar Crump, who erected on it the cottage in which he still resides. The original Johnson-Crump House was demolished in 1981.

Acreage: 2 acres

Magi No.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE __yes __no

| . Nam | e (indicate pre | ferred name) | | |
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| istoric John | son-Crump House | | | |
| nd/or common | | | | |
| 2. Loca | tion | | | |
| treet & number | 7606 Old Muirki | rk Road | | not for publication |
| ity, town Be | ltsville | Rossvillevicinity of | congressional district | 5 |
| tate MD | | county | Prince George's | S |
| 3. Clas | sification | | | |
| Category district building(s) structure X site object | Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not applicable | Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation _X other: |
| | ie A. Crump estat 760 4 01d Muirk | e, c/o Oscar Crump | nd mailing addresses | |
| | Beltsville | | | 20705 |
| ity, town | ation of Leg | | | |
| | ת | | County Courthouse | |
| courthouse, regi | istry of deeds, etc. | Tince deorge 3 c | Journey Gourenouse | liber 1718 |
| street & number | Main St | reet | | 10110 |
| city, town | Upp | er Marlboro | state | MD |
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| endition | deteriorated | Check one | Check one | | | |
| excellent | Geteriorated | unattered | original site | | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Johnson-Crump House, built in 1887 by Notley Johnson, was demolished within the last decade. It stood on Lot #11, one of the largest lots in the 1886 subdivision of Rossville.

unexposed

This was a modest house, two stories high, with entrance in the center bay of the principal south facade. The house was built of log, and originally was lighted by small square windows. In this century the window openings were enlarged, and 2/2 double hung sashes were installed; weatherboard was applied over the log structure. The south entrance was sheltered by a facade-wide one-story shed-roof porch supported by plain posts.

The hewn sill beams of the house rested on natural stone pilings, and there was a central brick chimney at the ridge. In the 1920's, a rear kitchen wing was added, giving the building its L shape; this kitchen wing was one-story high with gable roof, had a tall brick chimney in the west plane of the roof, and was covered with board-and-batten siding.

The main block of the house consisted of two rooms on the first story, separated by a central entry hall which backed up on the central chimney. The west room was originally the kitchen, until the small kitchen wing was added, and the south room was the parlor. There was a second story bedroom over each of these spaces.

A one-acre lot was sold out of Lot #11 in 1952, and on that lot stands the small side-gabled cottage which is the home of the present generation of the Crump family. The older Johnson-Crump house was demolished in 1981.

Survey No.

PG#62-15

| Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900– | Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture x architecture art commerce communications | heck and justify below X community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlen industry invention | ng iandscape archited iaw iiterature military music nent philosophy politics/government | science scuipture social/ humanitarian theater |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| Specific dates | 1887 | Builder/Architect | Notley Johnson | |
| a Appl | nd/or icable Exception: | B_C_D A_B_C_D nationalstate | _E _F _Glocal | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Johnson-Crump House was one of the first dwellings built in the 1886 subdivision of Rossville. It was constructed of log by Notley Johnson, on Lot #11 which he purchased in 1887; with its two-room plan and central chimney, it was representative of the modest dwellings built according to traditional methods by black farmers and laborers on newly acquired land.

In January 1868, William Minnix, a farmer of the Vanville District, sold a small piece of his farmland to six black men who had expressed the need of a "place of public worship." Accordingly, Henry Edwards, Thomas Queen, Thomas Matthews, Ferdinard Key, (K)notley Johnson and James Powell acquired 3/10 acre of land including a small graveyard already in use by the local black population, in trust for the erection of a "substantial building to be used as a place of worship and schoolhouse for the colored people." The log chapel which was built on this property came to be known as Queen's Chapel, in honor of one of these original trustees; it became the catalyst for the residential community which grew up immediately to the east twenty years later.

The land south and east of the Minnix farm was part of the estate of Mark Duvall. After Duvall's death in 1874, his real estate was divided among his heirs; in 1886 the Equity Court ordered the sale of some of this land. Part of Duvall's land adjoined Queen's Chapel on the east. A 24.8 acre parcel was surveyed by William H. Latimer, and divided into twelve unequal lots along the north side of the Muirkirk Road. Within a year, the twelve lots were purchased by the families of local blacks, most of whom were employed as laborers at the Muirkirk Iron Furnace. By late 1889, structures had been erected on all but one lot. Two of the new owner-residents, Thomas Matthews (lot #5) and (K)notley Johnson (lot #11) had been among the six founders of Queen's Chapel twenty years earlier. Another, Augustus Ross (lot #1), gave his name to the community. 3

Survey No. PG#62-15
Section 8 Page 2

The focal point of the Rossville community was a large frame lodge building erected on the largest of the lots (#9) by the Benevolent Sons and Daughters of Abraham. An article (entitled "Rossville") in The Advertiser, published in Laurel, 2 October 1889, gives evidence that this lodge, known as Abraham Hall, was considered an impressive building from the beginning: "a portion of the old Duvall estate...has recently been subdivided and sold... to certain colored people residing in the vicinity of Muirkirk. The land is of excellent quality and the site very pleasant for residences. The Sons and Daughters of Abraham have purchased about five [sic] acres of land and have now about completed a very substantial two-story frame building, with ante-room and closets, to be used as a hall in which to hold the meetings of the society. New dwellings are now in course of erection, or have already been completed; for Mr. Ross, John Carter, Philip, Ezekiel and Thomas Williams, Carter Dickson, Notley Johnson, and Robert Taylor."4

Lot #11 was purchased by Notley Johnson and his wife, Hannah, late in 1887. According to Sadie Ross Crump, who later would buy Notley Johnson's property, farmer Johnson began in 1887 to fell trees on his property, squaring them into building logs, and raising the building with the help of other new lot owners. 6

In 1913, Sadie Ross Anderson, daughter of Augustus Ross (who had built his house on Lot #1 of Rossville), purchased Lot #11, which Johnson had lost through default in mortgage. It was after this time that the windows of the log house were enlarged, and the log structure was covered with wood siding. After the death of Mrs. Anderson's husband, she married Israel Crump, and they raised their family in the old house. In 1952, Sadie and Israel Crump sold the westerly one acre of Lot #11 to their son, Oscar Crump, who erected on it the cottage in which he still resides.8

The Johnson-Crump house was one of the first houses built in Rossville; it was representative of the modest vernacular dwellings built at the end of the nineteenth century by black landowners. It was demolished in 1981.

Notes

- Prince George's County Deed HB #1:130.
- Prince George's County Equity #1588; Prince George's County Deeds JWB #9:60, 203, 204, 205, 207, 208, 209, 210, 439, 603; JWB #10:131, 133.
- ³ Prince George's County Tax Assessments, 1888-89; <u>The Advertiser</u>, 2 October 1889.

Survey No. PG#62-15
Section 8 Page 3

- 5 Prince George's County Deed JWB #10:133.
- 6 Interview with Sadie Ross Crump by George W. McDaniel, 1978.
- 7 Prince George's County Deed #79:487; see also P.G. Equity #2725.
- 8 Prince George's County Deed #1502:51.

⁴ Ross built on Lot #1, Carter on Lot #6, the Williams families on Lots #3 and #8, Dickson (Dixon) on Lot #10, Johnson on Lot #11, and Taylor on Lot #12. cf. 1886 plat in Equity #1588.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#62-15

See Notes, Item #8

| 0. G | eographical [| Data | | | |
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

P. G: 62-15 Johnson-Crump House Muirkirk Private

This handsome two story log house was built by a black landowner, Notley Johnson. It contains two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. In 1907, it was purchased by Sadie Crump, who improved the exterior and interior, enlarged the house and gave it the appearance of a fine, modestly appointed dwelling. The house is evidence of the evolution in housing among the rural black middle class in the decades of the turn of the century.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

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DOE __yes __no

Magi No.

| 1. Nam | e (indicate p | referred name) | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| historic Joh | nson-Crump Hous | e | | |
| and/or common | | | | |
| 2. Loca | ation | | | |
| street & number | 7606 Old Muir | kirk Road | | not for publication |
| city, town Be | eltsville | Rossville vicinity of | congressional district | 5 |
| state MD | | county | Prince George' | S |
| 3. Clas | sification | | | |
| Category district building(s) structure site object | Ownership public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered not_applicable | Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no | Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military | museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other: |
| 4. Own | er of Prope | erty (give names a | nd mailing addresses | of <u>all</u> owners) |
| name Sadi | ie A. Crump | | | |
| street & number | 7606 Old Muir | kirk | telephone no | .: |
| city, town | Beltsville | state | | 20705 |
| | ation of Leg | al Description | | |
| | | Prince George's (| | liber 1718 |
| street & number | Main St | treet | | folio 385 |
| city, town | Upp | per Marlboro | state | MD |
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| 7. Desc | cription | Survey No. PG#62-15 | | |
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| Condition excellent good fair | deteriorated ruins _X unexposed | Check one unaltered altered | Check one original site moved date of move | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Johnson-Crump House was a plain two-story frame gable-roofed vernacular dwelling, one of the first houses built in Rossville.

| 8. 5 | 8. Significance | | | | | Survey No. PG#62-15 | | | 15 | | | |
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8. Significance

This dwelling was one of the first houses built in Rossville, a small black community (largely of laborers at the Muirkirk Furnace) which was formed in the 1880's. Notley Johnson built this house circa 1888, on lot #11, one of the larger lots in the subdivision of Rossville. In 1913, the house and lot were sold to Sadie Anderson, daughter of Augustus Ross (for whom Rossville was named). It has remained in her family, the Crump family, to the present day.

The house was in deteriorating condition when it was surveyed in 1978, and was destroyed shortly afterwards.

| 10. Geograph | ical Data | | |
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House

21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

| HISTORIC The Johnson-Crump House AND/OR COMMON STREET A NUMBER 7606 Old Muirkirk Road CITY.TOWN Beltsville X WICHITY OF 13 STATE Maryland Prince George's County Prince George's COUNTY CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE AGRICULTURE MUSEUM PARK X.STRUCTURE BOTH PARK X.STRUCTURE BOTH PARK X.STRUCTURE BOTH POLICIA CQUISTION ACCESSIBLE LENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS COURTED COVERNMENT SCENTRICE GOVERNMENT SCENTRICE BEING CONSIDERED YES UNRESTRICTED GOVERNMENT SCENTRICE TRANSPORTATION MULTARY OTHER TOTHER STATE X.STRUCTURE SCHOOL ACCESSIBLE SCHOOL TOWN TRANSPORTATION TO MULTARY OTHER TOWN TRANSPORTATION TO MULTARY OTHER TOWN TOWN TOWN TOWN TOWN TOWN TOWN TOWN | 1 NAME | | | | | |
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This attractive house stands about 50 yards from Old Muirkirk Road on the gentle slope of the hillside descending east from the road. In front of it is a well-kept lawn, with flowers bordering both the lawn and the house. On either side of the front length stand two large plaster pots for flowers, made by the owner, Mrs. Sadie Crump. She had her centennial birthday in February 1977.

The house faces west towards the road. Today it is weatherboarded and painted yellow with white trims giving it the appearance of a middle class landowner's frame house. But when it was built in the late 19th century as the home of its owner and occupant, Notley Johnson, it was a plain log house with no sheathing and was not whitewashed. Unlike most log houses of black families of the 19th century, this one was built with two stories. The facade had the typical three-bay arrangement, with two windows flanking a centrally located door with matching windows above those below. When built, the windows were much smaller and square in shape, similar to windows in other log houses of black families, according to Mrs. Crump. After she purchased the property, Mrs. Crump enlarged the windows and installed the double-hung sashes with two over two lights. The northern gable end has no window opening, like the house nearby of her father, Augustus Ross, which has also been recorded as part of this survey. The souther gable end did have one window in the upstairs. Probably the window was omitted from the northern gable end to keep out the cold winds, while the southern gable did have a window for the sunlight from the southern exposure. The windows in the facade provided the illumination for the downstairs room in the northern gable end. Thus, the arrangement is practical.

The foundations of the house (hewn sills) rested on stone pilling on three sides, but directly on the ground underneath the facade. No rot or termite infestation has resulted so far, perhaps because of Mrs. Crump's traditional pesticide: lime that she dowses the underparts of the house with periodically.

The floor plan of the interior of the original block consists of two rooms downstairs, two upstairs. The front door opens directly into a short foyer between the two rooms with the back wall being the frame around the central chimney. The north room was originally the kitchen, the cooking being done over a wood stove piped into the central chimney. In the northeast corner, a dog-leg stairway ascended the two walls. Originally, the treads were unenclosed, but Mrs. Crump has boxed them in with narrow, plain planks during her improvements of the log house. In the east wall (rear), a door opened originally to the outside, but Mrs. Crump has added a board and batten, frame kitchen with a shed room attached to it about fifty years ago.

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| —PREHISTORIC —.1400-1499 —.1500-1599 —.1600-1699 —.1700-1799 X—1800-1899 —.1900- | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTURE X_ARCHITECTUREARTCOMMERCECOMMUNICATIONS | COMMUNITY PLANNINGCONSERVATIONECONOMICSEDUCATIONENGINEERINGEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTINDUSTRYINVENTION | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT Black | RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SCOLAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY) History | | |
| SPECIFIC DATE | s Circa 1887 | BUILDER/ARCH | HITECT Notley John | son | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is valuable evidence of the evolution of the houses of the emerging black middle class in the late 19th century. According to Mrs. Crump, she and her first husband bought the house from Notley Johnson, who had built it. Deed records show that he had purchased the land in 1887, with his wife, Hannah, as co-signer. According to Mrs. Crump, who was born in 1877 and who remembers the construction of this house when she was ten about ten years old, Johnson felled the trees on his land, hewn them into squared logs, and raised this house in the community helping him to put on the roof. Since Johnson owned the land, he could use his wood as he saw fit and build a larger house than commonly found among landless blacks. According to Mrs. Crump, Johnson built a log house instead of a frame one because he was accustomed to building and living in them, her memory of him remembering him as being of the "old style."

In 1907, Mrs. Crump and her first husband, Major Anderson, bought this property. After his death, she married her present husband, Crump, now 95 years old. They continued to live here, raised their children in this house, and are now sustained by the ongoing support of the family -- which includes four generations. Very strong support comes from their son, Oscar Crump, who with his wife, lives next door to them in a pleasant, one and a half-story house built in the 1950's, a slide of which is included in this survey. About 200 yards north of this house stands the house of Mrs. Crump's father, Augustus Ross. Thus, along this road stand the houses of an extended family that has remained closely knit throughout the 20th century. Though the land is no longer farmed, it is well-maintained, and is still cultivated in vegetable gardens. Several of the old fruit trees planted by the founders of the community still remain.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

| | CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET I | F NECESSARY | |
|----|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| 10 | GEOGRAPHICAL DATA | | |
| | ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY | | |
| | ACHEROL OF HOMINATED FIRST EAST | | |
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| | VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION | | |
| | VERRAL BOONDARY DESCRIPTION | | |
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| | STATE | COUNTY | |
| | | | |
| 1 | FORM PREPARED BY | | |
| | NAME / TITLE | | |
| | George W. McDaniel | | DATE |
| | ORGANIZATION Maryland Commission on A | fro-American History | |
| | STREET & NUMBER | Tro-American history | TELEPHONE |
| | 20 Dean Street | | |
| | CITY OR TOWN | | STATE |
| | Annapolis, Maryland | | |
| | | | |

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

The Johnson-Crump House Prince George's County Maryland

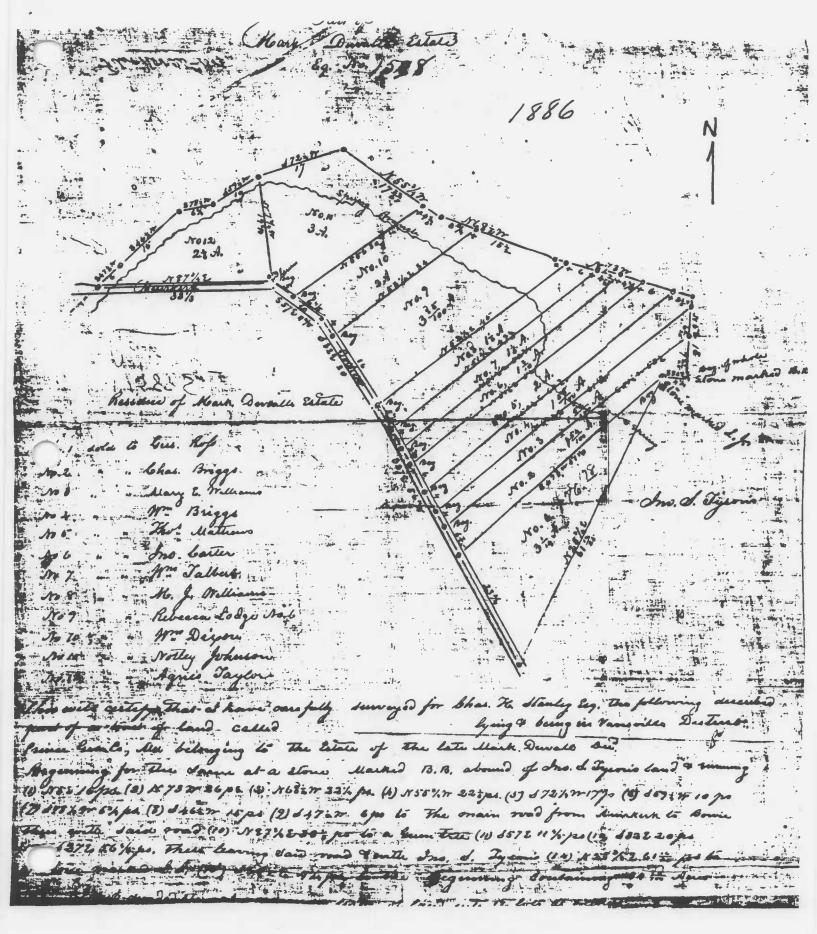
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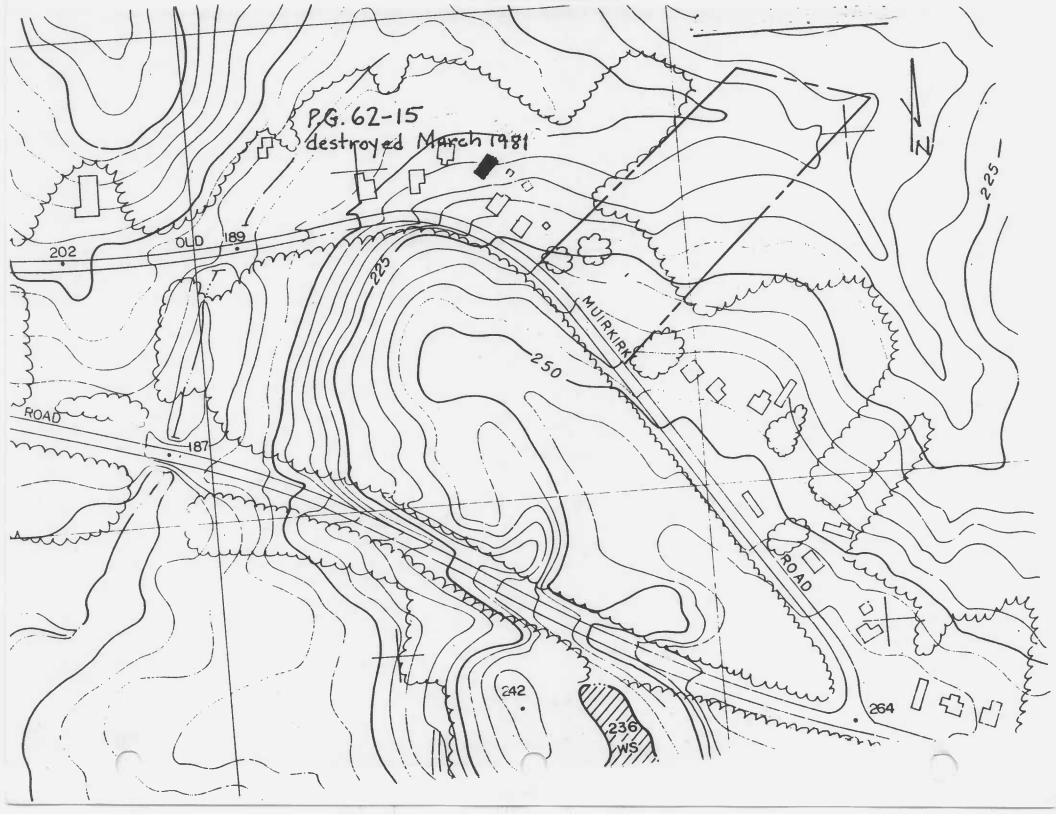
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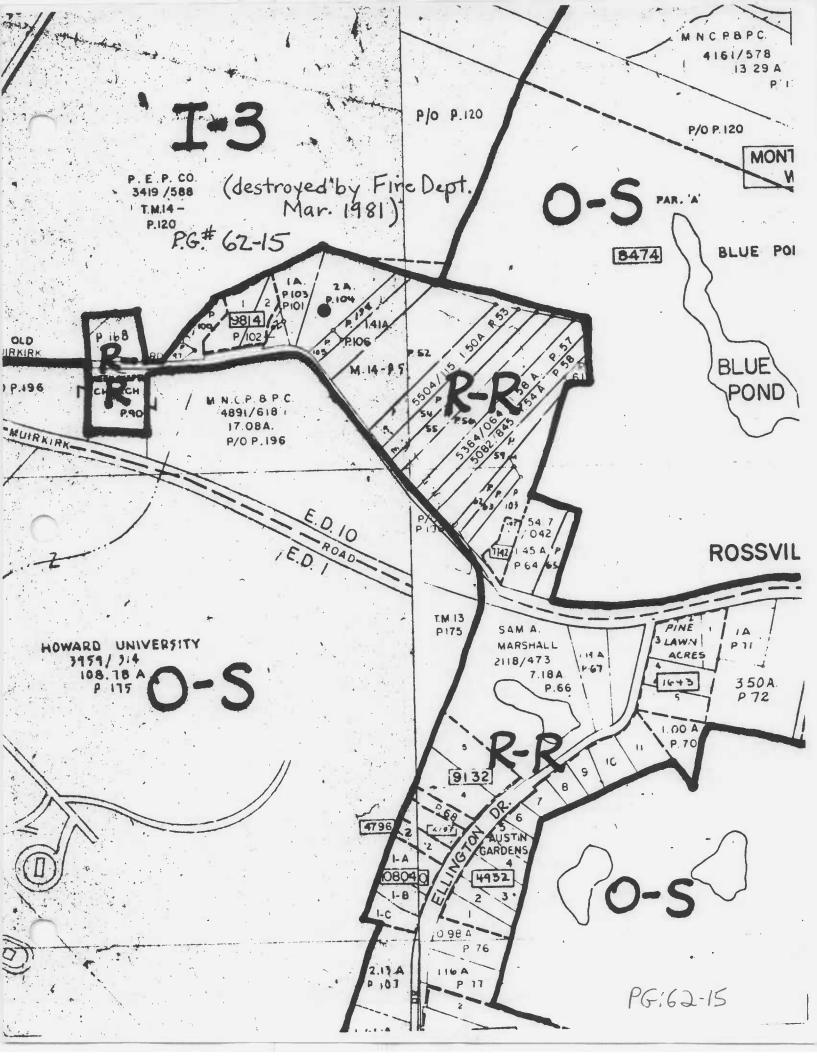
Page 1

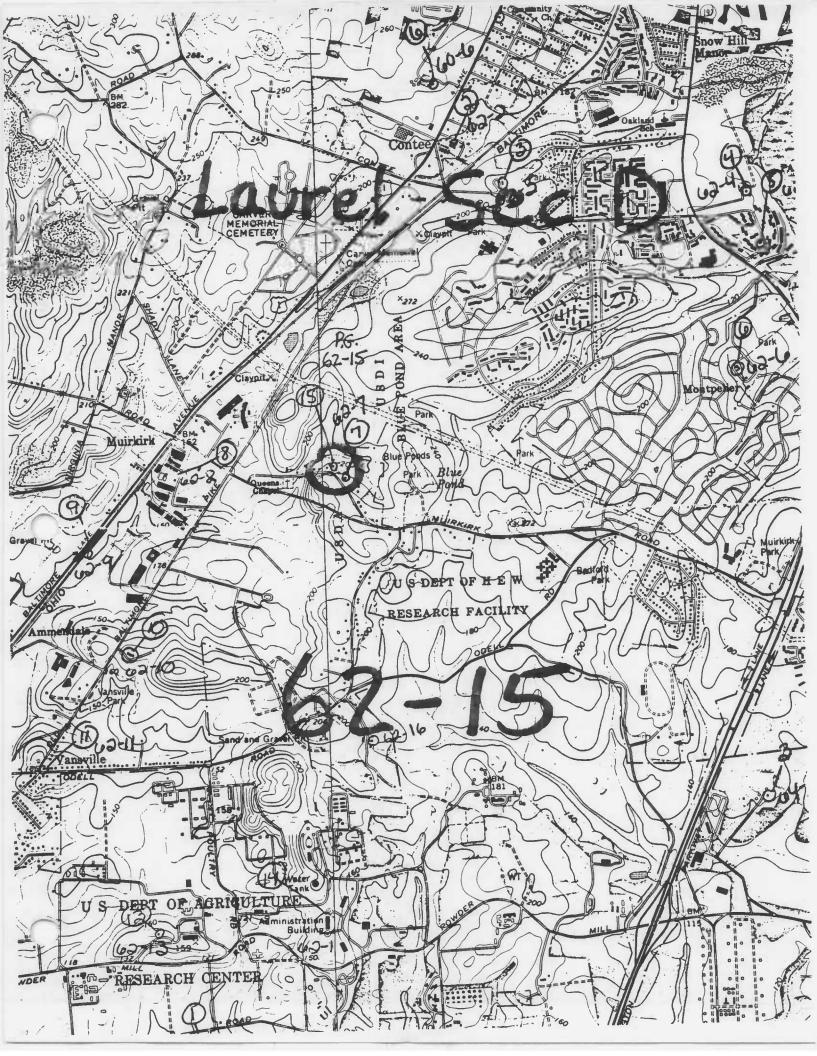
The south room was the "sitting room." Its fireplace has now been filled in. On the walls hang early 20th century paintings and prints, family photographs, and religious paintings of the Virgin Mary and Jesus which, though dusty from neglect since this elderly couple no longer entertain, reveal the personal possessions and values of this family in the early 20th century.

In addition to the "improvements" already mentioned, Mrs. Crump lathed and plastered the interior walls of the log house herself, and installed picture moldings along the walls. The result is that the humble log dwelling was converted in appearance to that of a fine-frame house.











JOHNSON- CRUMP HOUSE
P.G.,
WEST VIEW, Facade
BECTSVILLE, MO.
Gwm



CP

JoHnson - Crump House

P. G. -

NORTH VIEW

Be Itsville, md,

Cours

6/11



P6:62-15

Crump family:

L-R:

Oscar (Rump, Sadie)

Ceump, Israel Celamp,

Daughter of S. + I. crump,

I smal crump, h/e)

Oscar,

P.G. Muirkirk, At. Vic. Beltsville, md.

90/16





7.5

P6:62-15 CRump family L-R: Oscar Crump, Jadie Crump, Israel. Crump, + wife of oscar Crump. Beltswille, Md.

10/76